

ABSTRACT

WA-I-286

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. --- (108)
Mason and Dixon, Pennsylvania/Maryland
Public/private

1767 (first set
c. 1902)

Milestone No. --- (108) is an original milestone of 1767, added approximately to the West Line by the Cumberland Valley Railroad sometime prior to 1902, and reset nearby correctly on the Line in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. Damaged recently by a vehicular accident, about 2/3 of the monument remains in very good condition, firmly in place and otherwise unaltered, but until repaired would have to be considered in ruins. It stands about 17 inches above its concrete foundation, as set in 1902, and measures about 13 inches on the north and south sides, about 12 inches on the east and west sides. The huge chunk broken diagonally off the top across the north and south sides, and especially down along the west side, is believed to have been retrieved by the National Geodetic Survey (and its disappearance will be traced in Phase II of this project). Most of the ^{remaining 2/3 at the site are clear:} embellishments of the / the vertical fluting and horizontally-fluted ^{on all four sides} margins; the capital P on the north side facing Pennsylvania and M ^(though partially gone) on the south side facing Maryland. Despite not marking any particular distance between Milestone Nos. 104(107) and 105(109), / ^{this monument} is nevertheless significant on the national and state levels primarily as one of 135 original Mason and Dixon monuments in the thematic group series of some 248 markers still defining their 230.228-mile West Line, the boundary later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. Locally, as one of 48 original monuments marking the present Washington/Franklin-Fulton county boundary (10 crownstones; 38 milestones), No. --- (108) is also significant as one of a diminishing number of objects and structures with a visually identifiable relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties. In addition, it is the one such monument placed on the West Line initially by a railroad--a touching reminder of a rather typical late 1800's-early 1900's effort by railroads to promote special historical and other points of interest along their routes, much the way state highway commissions continued to do later on.

ABSTRACT

WA-I-286

Ca. 1768

Mason-Dixon Milestone Misplaced

Mason-Dixon Vicinity

public

This Mason-Dixon boundary marker set between the 104th and 105th milestones is apparently not in its original location. Although it is not placed at a correct mile interval, it is identical to the original stones and would seem to properly mark the boundary location. It is significant as one of the markers used to form the Mason-Dixon Line.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Magi No.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME BOUNDARY MARKERS ALONG THE MASON-DIXON LINE (THEMATIC GROUP)
 HISTORIC (Mason and Dixon's) WEST LINE

AND/OR COMMON

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. --- (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 108)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER off the south side of State Line Road (PA 163 & LR-28030),
 in Conrail right-of-way

CITY, TOWN

Mason and Dixon

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

MD: 6 / PA: 9

STATE

Pennsylvania/Maryland

COUNTY

MD: Washington/PA: Franklin

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS N/A	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER state boundary marker

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY (monument only; see Thematic Group NR nomination form)

NAME State of Maryland/Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION (see Thematic Group NR nomination form and surrounding property ownership list)COURTHOUSE.
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (also see Thematic Group NR nomination form)

TITLE Washington County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

WA-I-236 entered 10/12/80

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE
Maryland

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS (until repaired)	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE 1902
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Milestone No. --- (108) is an original milestone of 1767; retrieved by the Cumberland Valley Railroad sometime prior to 1902 and set by them within their right-of-way (now belonging to Conrail); nearby, but not marking a mile, reset accurately on the West Line as an addition between Nos. 104 (107) and 105 (109) in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. In ruins from a recent vehicular accident, it is otherwise in very good condition, firmly in place, unaltered.

The area here is rural, sparsely settled, comparatively level open farmland. The site is within Election District 13 of Washington County, MD, and Antrim Township, of Franklin County, PA; in the middle of a small scattered settlement called Mason and Dixon, on the east side of the Conrail right-of-way, about 50 feet south of State Line Road (PA 163 & LR-28030), and can be seen easily from the road, all seasons, even though not marked in any other way.

The milestone, according to the Resurvey notes (MGS, Vol. 7, 1908, p. 90):

(was) One of the Mason and Dixon monuments which had formerly been in use as a horse block at a neighboring farmhouse and now standing on the east side of the right of way of the Cumberland Valley R. R. at the station called Mason and Dixon. The railway company had secured it and had placed it approximately on the line. Its position was corrected and it was then set in masonry by the railway.

As with all original Mason and Dixon West Line monuments, this additional milestone is an embellished oolitic limestone post, (no longer) with a low pyramidal top, quarried and carved in England; originally measured about 12 inches square by about 4½ feet long, cut to stand about 3 feet high, with the base left rough-cut for setting into the ground. The distinguishing decorative features are the vertical fluting with horizontally-fluted margins on all four sides, and the Roman capital letters P on the north side facing Pennsylvania and M on the south side facing Maryland, each V-sunk in the center of a plain shallow circle panel near the top. It continues to stand about 17 inches high, and measures about 13 inches on the north and south sides, about 12 inches on the east and west sides. At the time of the accident, a huge chunk was broken diagonally off the top, across the north and south sides, and particularly the west side, leaving the remaining ¾ of the stone intact. Most embellishments are clear on the north and east sides; less so on the south and west sides, from weathering. The top is almost entirely gone. The broken-off portion is believed to have been retrieved by the National Geodetic Survey. (It's demise will be traced in the follow-up Phase II of this boundary marker project.)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY (see Thematic Group NR nomination form for full descriptions of the original Mason and Dixon monuments and the 1900-03 Resurvey method of resetting them)

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		boundary surveying	

SPECIFIC DATES 1767 (reset 1902)

~~MONUMENTARY~~ Charles Mason & Jeremiah Dixon
SURVEYORS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No. ---(108) is an original milestone of 1767, added^{approximately} to the West Line by the Cumberland Valley Railroad sometime prior to 1902, and reset nearby, correctly on the Line in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. Though not marking any particular distance between Milestone Nos. 104(107) and 105(109), it is nevertheless significant on the national and state levels primarily as one of 135 original Mason and Dixon monuments in the thematic group series of some 248 markers still defining their 230.228-mile West Line, the boundary later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. Locally, as one of 48 original monuments marking the present Washington/Franklin-Fulton county boundary (10 crownstones; 38 milestones), No. ---(108) is also significant as one of a diminishing number of objects and structures with a visually identifiable relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acreQuadrangle name: Mason-Dixon (Maryland-Pennsylvania), USGS 7.5 minute series
(topographic), 1953 photorev. 1971, scale 1:24000

UTM reference: zone 18, easting 26388, northing 440022

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION N/A

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE Maryland COUNTY Washington

STATE Pennsylvania COUNTY Franklin

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Alice Martin (volunteer, Mason & Dixon's West Line boundary marker surveyor)

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust & Maryland Geological Survey

DATE

10/12/80 (site surveyed)

STREET & NUMBER

14308 Mount Avenue

TELEPHONE

301/472-2.28

CITY OR TOWN

Phoenix

STATE

Maryland 21131

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Mason-Dixon Milestone, Misplaced

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Just south of State Line Road at Penn Central Railroad Tracks

CITY, TOWN

Mason-Dixon, Northwest — VICINITY OF Hagerstown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland - Pennsylvania

COUNTY

Washington - Franklin

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**

☐ DISTRICT
☐ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☒ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC
☐ PRIVATE
☐ BDTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☒ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☒ OTHER: Boundary Marker

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

State of Maryland - Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

WA-I-286

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This Mason-Dixon boundary marker is located along the east edge of the Penn Central railroad track just south of Pennsylvania route 163, the State Line Road at Mason and Dixon northwest of Hagerstown.

Although the marker is not in its original location it would seem to correctly indicate the boundary between Washington County, Maryland and Antrim Township in Franklin County, Pennsylvania.

This marker is identical to other Mason-Dixon milestones with reeding on its east and west surfaces and an M and P incised on its south and north sides respectively. This stone, however, is located between the 104th and 105th mile markers and so is out of place. A geological survey map of Maryland, dated 1941 does not show a mile marker at this location. The map does, however, note the location of a U.S. Coast Survey bench mark which has been set into the top surface of the stone.

The stone is in good condition.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Boundary Marker	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES Ca. 1768

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This Mason-Dixon boundary marker set between the 104th and 105th milestones is apparently not in its original location. Although it is not placed at a correct mile interval, it is identical to the original stones and would seem to properly mark the boundary location. It is significant as one of the markers used to form the Mason-Dixon Line.

Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon began work on the division line between Maryland and Delaware and Pennsylvania in 1764 and completed it in 1767. The team crossed South Mountain and began working on the portion of the line forming the northern boundary of Washington County on September 1, 1765. In 1768 the actual placing of stones was completed.

The running of the Mason-Dixon Line solved the boundary dispute which had plagued Maryland, Pennsylvania and Delaware. A temporary line had been run in 1739 which was approximately 225 perches north of the present line.¹ This line, however, apparently did not ease the dispute. The contested land between Maryland and Pennsylvania brought frequent clashes among residents in the area. One of the most famous leaders in the border fighting was Col. Thomas Cressap who was given the responsibility of holding the Maryland border by Lord Baltimore.

The Penns and Calvert, Lord Baltimore, employed Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon of London to lay the boundary between Pennsylvania and Maryland and Delaware. These men and their team used sophisticated scientific methods to determine the course of the boundary. At each mile a stone was planted with an M and P incised into the appropriate surfaces. Five mile intervals were marked with larger, more elaborate crownstones which carried the coats of arms of the proprietors. The stones are said to have been cut in England. Although enough stones were imported to complete the line, they were not used in the rough mountainous areas because of transportation difficulties. Instead, high piles of native stones marked the miles in the mountains. According to T.J.C. Williams' History of Washington County, the unused English stones were left at Fort Frederick near Clear Spring in Washington County.² Perhaps this marker is one of these unused stones.

¹ Herbert C. Bell, History of Leitersburg District. Leitersburg, Md: the author (1908) p. 46.

² Thomas J.C. Williams', A History of Washington County, Maryland. F. erstown, Md: Mail Publishing Company, (1906) p. 35.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Bell, Herbert C., History of Leitersburg District. Leitersburg, Md: the author, 1908.
- Cloos, Ernst, Geological Map of Washington County. Maryland Geological Survey, 1941.
- Williams' Thomas, J.C., A History of Washington County, Maryland. Hagerstown, Md: Mail Publishing Company, 1906.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Washington County Historical Sites Survey

DATE

August 1976

STREET & NUMBER

County Office Building, 33 West Washington Street

TELEPHONE

791-3065

CITY OR TOWN

Hagerstown

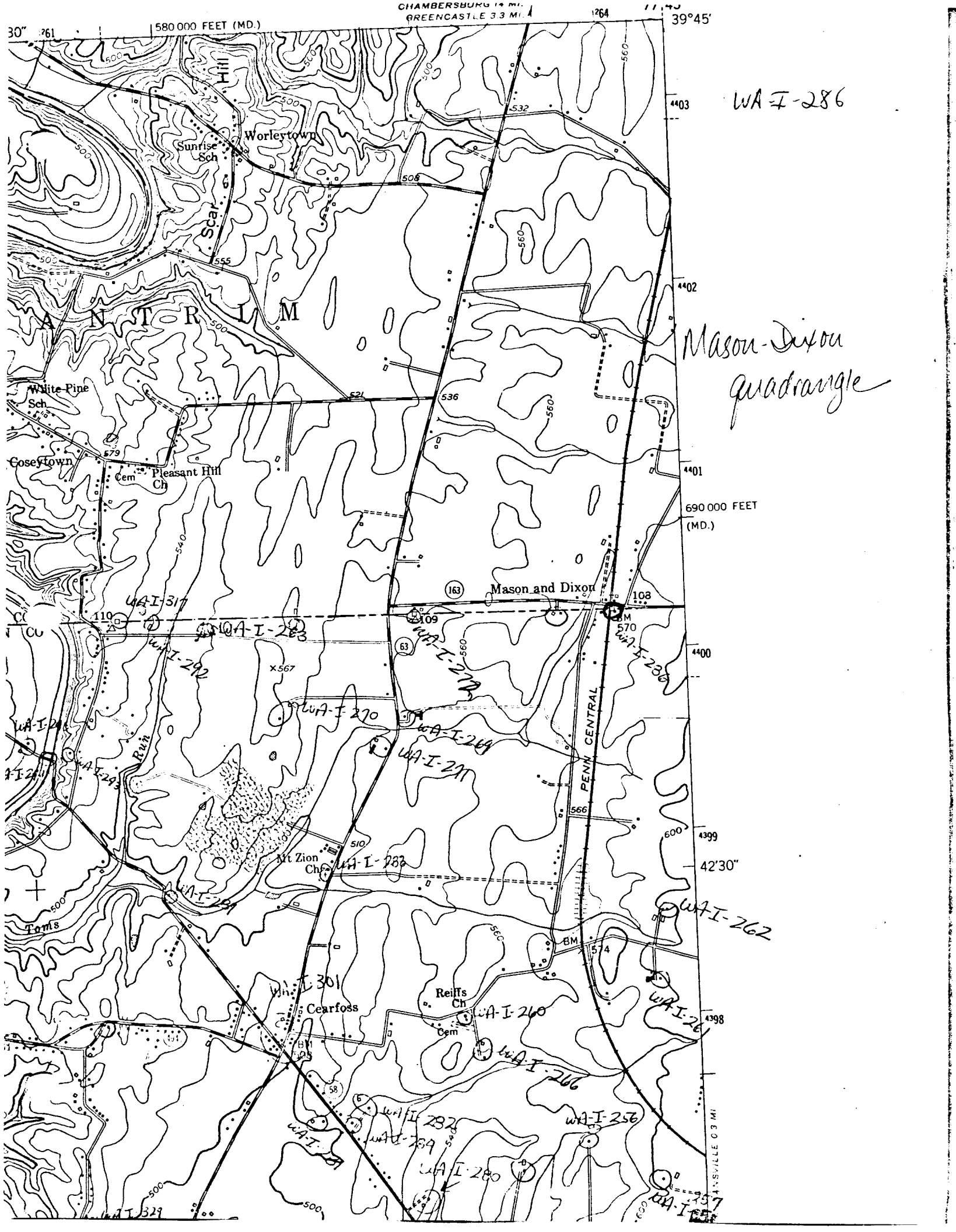
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Maryland 21740

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



MASON-DIXON LINE MILESTONE

WA-I-286

MASON-DIXON QUADRANGLE

MARYLAND-PENNSYLVANIA

USGS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

SCALE: 1" = 2000'

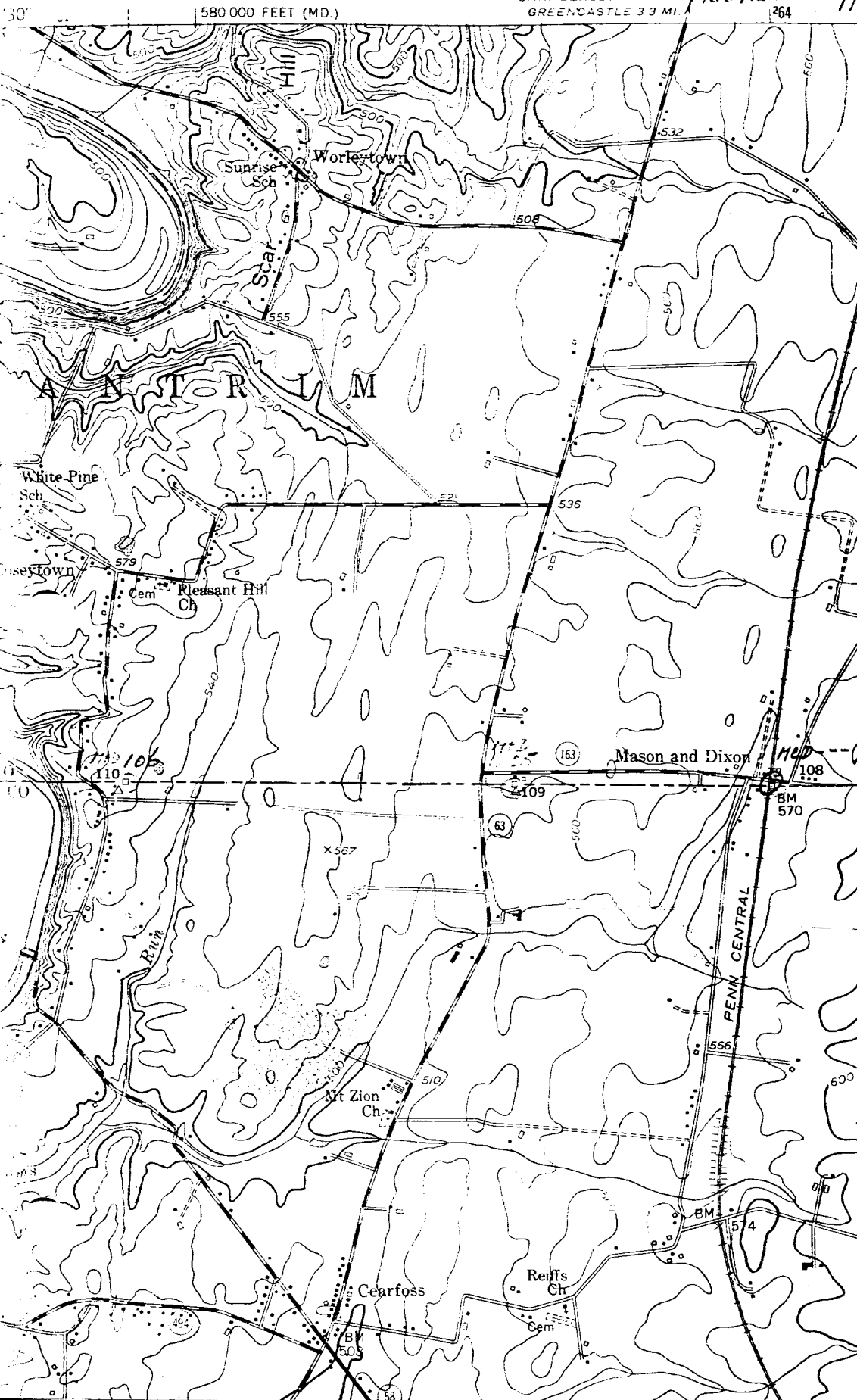
NE/4 WILLIAMSPORT 15' QUADRANGLE

CHAMBERSBURG 14 MI

GREENCASTLE 33 MI

5463 1 SW
(GREENCASTLE)

WASHINGTON CO (17)



not milestone is set by R
105 M D

(109) MED 105: 0120

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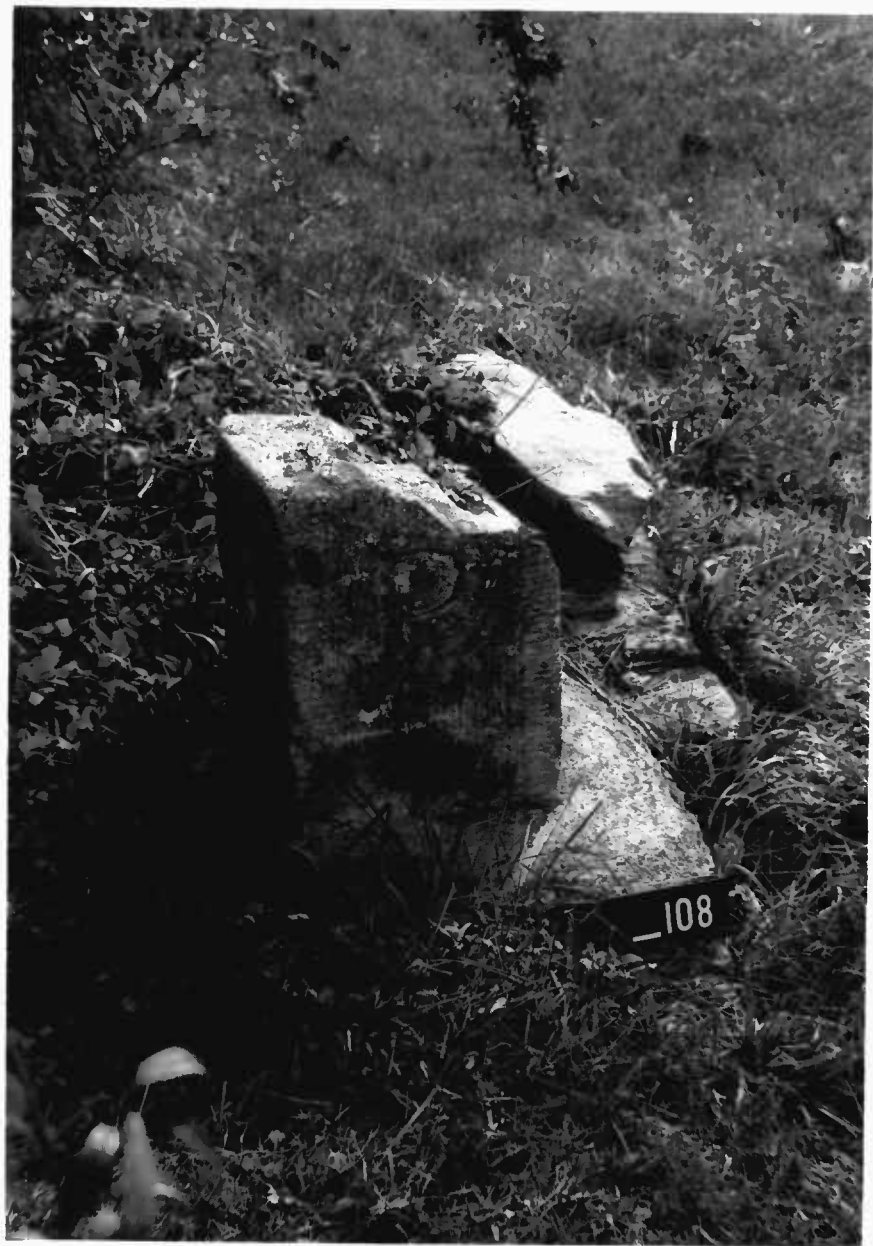
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MASON & JONES WEST LINE MILESTONE — (108)

NE CORNER (— 18)

PHOTO ALICE MARTIN (980.23 15) 11/15/94



101-2-26

MASON & DIXON WEST LINE: MILESTONE — (108)

SW CORNER — 109

PHOTOS ALICE MASON (108-2-26) — 28V



WA-1-286

Mason Dixon Marker #108

(Lower right corner)

From south (PA to left - MD
to right)

Mason Dixon Marker #108

108

St. Georges - 108 - 108 - 108

and 108 - 108 - 108

108 - 108

108 - 108

108 - 108



PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA-1-286

Mason Dixon Marker #108

From west side-PA to left

(north) MD to right (south)

Marker #108

Left

200 yds from intersection of Marker 108
road to the south

200 yds from

intersection

west